



Carolene R. Mays is Publisher and President of the nation's fourth oldest-surviving African-American newspaper, the *Indianapolis Recorder*, and the recently acquired *Indiana Minority Business Magazine*. She has worked extensively as a community advocate, communicator, and business leader.

Her commitment to service and community led her to run for the Indiana State House of Representatives. Carolene is currently serving in her third term as State Representative in District 94 on the Northwest side of Indianapolis, Indiana. In the Legislature she serves on the Ways and Means Committee, Public Health Committee and as Vice-Chairman of the Small Business and Economic Development Committee. On a national Level, she serves on committees with the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Conference of State Legislators, and Women in Government.

Carolene is active in the community serving on numerous boards and committees. She is the founder and director of the Community Resource and Health Fair held at Lafayette Square Mall. She is also co-founder of the nationwide African American News and Information Consortium.

Holding a BS in Business Management and Marketing, Carolene quickly earned leadership roles in business. At Mays Chemical Company, she was Manager of Customer Service and National Accounts; and at Occidental Chemical Company she held various positions in sales and corporate account management throughout the country.

Since 1998, Carolene has been a catalyst for change, redesign and growth of the *Indianapolis Recorder*. A refocused charge to highlight motivational and educational news has appealed to old and new readers of the paper, increasing its readership dramatically by over 50%, to nearly 100,000. The *Recorder* is now ranked among the top Black newspapers nationwide.

Additionally, Carolene is the co-host of a weekly television news segment, "Community Link", on Central Indiana's CBS affiliate, WISH-TV Channel 8 which highlights news from the *Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper*; and co-host of the "Recorder On Air Report Television Show" (ROAR) on Central Indiana cable networks and WDNI-TV Channel 65.

She was featured August 2007 in *Indianapolis Monthly Magazine* as one of "Indy's Most Powerful". In November 2007, Carolene was honored by the *Indianapolis Business*

Journal as one of “Indiana’s Most Influential Women”. *IBJ* had previously listed her as one of the “Women to Watch”. Her accomplishments were highlighted in the October 2002 issue, as the cover and feature story of the *Indianapolis Woman Magazine*. She has also been honored in the Ben Davis High School Hall of Fame and as an Indiana State University Distinguished Alumni.

On the political front, she recently received Legislator of the Year awards from United Senior Action, Brain Injury Association, Indiana Minority Health Coalition, and Indiana Restaurant, Lodging & Tourism. She was also listed by *Roll Call*, a Washington D.C. publication as a Rising Star in Indiana Politics.

Carolene is a member of Eastern Star Church, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and Indianapolis Chapter of the Links. She is the mother of one daughter.

Biographical Information Outline

Education

- **Indiana State University**, B.S. Degree, 1985
Major - Business Management; Minor - Marketing
- **Ben Davis High School** - Indianapolis, Indiana

Current Political

Indiana State Legislature - State Representative, first elected November, 2002

- State Committees: Vice-Chairman - Small Business & Economic Development; Ways & Means; and Public Health
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators: Health; and Vice Chair – Small Business
- National Caucus of State Legislators: Business and Commerce
- Women in Government

Current Employment

- ***Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper***, since 1998 - Publisher & President
- ***Indiana Minority Business Magazine***, since 2007 – Publisher & President
- ***Community Link***, since 2000
Co-host of weekly television news segment of community information on WISH-TV Channel 8. This unique partnership with the local CBS affiliate and the Hispanic media disseminates news from the African-American and Hispanic communities to a broader audience.

- ***Recorder On Air Report (ROAR)***, since 1995
Co-host and Producer of the ROAR, a 60-minute public affairs and community news television show, which airs twice per week on Time Warner Cable, Comcast Cable and WDNI-TV 65.

Previous Employment

- **Mays Chemical Company**, 1991 - 1998
Manager of Customer Service and National Accounts.
- **Occidental Chemical Company, Inc.**, 1985 – 1991
Various positions in Sales and Corporate Account Management throughout the nation.

Current Boards of Directors

- Indianapolis 500 Festival Board, Executive Committee;
- Indiana Sports Corporation Board, Vice-Chairman;
- Peyton Manning's PeyBack Foundation Board;
- African American News and Information Consortium, Co-founder
- Engaging Solutions Board; and
- Shrewsberry & Associates Board

Events

Community Resource and Health Fair hosted at Lafayette Square Mall - Founder and Director

Recent Recognitions / Awards

- 2007 Legislator of the Year – United Senior Action
- 2007 Legislator of the Year – Brain Injury Association
- 2007 *Indiana Business Journal's* One of Indiana's Most Influential Woman
- 2007 *Indianapolis Monthly Magazine* – One of Indy's Most Powerful
- 2007 Ben Davis High School Alumni Hall of Fame
- 2007 Indiana Chamber Small Business Champion
- 2006 Indiana NAACP Membership Award
- 2006 Today's Woman Leadership Award
- 2005 Legislator of the Year Award – Indiana Minority Health Coalition
- 2005 Legislator of the Year Award - Indiana Hotel, Lodging and Tourism Association
- 2005 Touchstone Business & Industry Award
- 2005 Indiana Commission for Women Torchbearer Award
- 2004 Rising Star in Indiana Politics by the Washington D.C. publication, *Roll Call*
- 2002 Cover feature in the October issue of *Indianapolis Woman Magazine*
- 2003 Drum Major for Justice Award

- 2003 Coalition of 100 Black Women, Breakthrough Woman Award
- 2002 Indiana State University Distinguished Alumni
- 2002 Martin Luther King Center Living the Legacy Award
- 2002 Indiana Black Expo Media Award
- 2002 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Regional Communications Award
- 2001 Center for Leadership Development Mass Media Award
- 2001 National Council of Negro Women - Indianapolis Chapter Award
- 2001 Women's Expo Trailblazer Award by Indiana Black Expo and WTLC Radio
- 2000 *Indianapolis Business Journal's* Woman to Watch

Organization Affiliations

Eastern Star Church, serving on the Greeter Ministry; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Indianapolis Chapter of Links; NAACP

Interests and Hobbies

Event planning; traveling; snow skiing; cooking; and most of all spending time with family.

Previous Boards

Indiana Supreme Court Commission for Racial and Gender Fairness; University of Indianapolis Board of Trustees; Indiana Neighborhood Housing Partnership Board (Mayoral appointment); Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee; Julian Center Advisory Board; Pike YMCA; Indianapolis Downtown Marketing, Inc. Board; NCAA Citizenship/Common Ground Advisory Board; Indy Jazz Fest Board; 2001 World Police and Fire Games Executive Committee; Indiana Repertory Theatre Board; Indiana Private Industry Council Board; Girls, Inc. Board; United Way's Ardeth Burkhart Series; Freetown Village Board

Previous Community Service Committees

Co-Chairperson, NCAA 2005 Women's Basketball Final Four; Pike Performing Arts Center; Chairperson, Circle City Classic Gala 1999 – 2003; Chairperson Classic Coaches Luncheon 1993 -1999; IPS Facilities Strategy Task Force; Project Safe Neighborhoods (US Attorney appointment); 2000 NCAA Final Four Committee; Indianapolis Downtown, Inc. World's Largest Christmas Tree Chairperson of Communications; Co-coordinator of the Indiana School of Champions Camp; Pacers Reading Team

Previous National Appointments

- **National Newspapers Publishers Association** - Appointed April 2000 through April 2001
Interim Chairperson of the National Editorial Board

- **National Newspapers Publishers Association**, President of the Central Region,
Elected July 1999 through July 2001.